

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 8

Introduced by Assembly Member Dymally

January 14, 2005

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8— Relative to Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 8, as introduced, Dymally. Elder and dependent adult abuse.

This measure would proclaim the month of May this year and every year thereafter as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a serious and
2 growing problem throughout California; and

3 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adult abuse is a crime that is
4 indiscriminate in choosing whom it strikes, and factors such as
5 one's socioeconomic status, gender, race, ethnicity, educational
6 background, and geographic location do not provide an
7 impregnable barrier against its broad, horrible reach; and

8 WHEREAS, Nearly 225,000 Californians are victims of elder
9 and dependent adult abuse every year, including neglect and
10 physical, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse; and

11 WHEREAS, Victimization levels promise to significantly
12 increase, as the United States Census Bureau projects that
13 California's elderly population will nearly double in the next 20
14 years, from 3.7 million to over 6.4 million; and

1 WHEREAS, It has been estimated that only one in five cases
2 of elder and dependent adult abuse is reported because the
3 victims are ashamed, helpless, or afraid of the abuser; and

4 WHEREAS, Recognizing suspected elder and dependent adult
5 abuse through increased awareness is the first step toward the
6 prevention of this type of abuse; and

7 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adults are deserving of
8 special consideration and protection, not unlike the special
9 protections provided for minor children, because they are a
10 vulnerable population that is often targeted by criminal predators;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Elder and dependent adults have the right to live
13 safely, whether in their homes or in health care facilities, and to
14 enjoy an optimum quality of life, while being protected from all
15 forms of abuse; and

16 WHEREAS, Private citizens and public agencies must work
17 both independently and collaboratively to combat crime and
18 violence against elder and dependent adults; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of California has the responsibility to
20 ensure that our “Greatest Generation,” which has given us so
21 much, can live their lives with the dignity and respect they
22 deserve; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
24 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature proclaims the month of
25 May this year and every year thereafter as Elder and Dependent
26 Adult Abuse Awareness Month; and be it further

27 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
28 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.